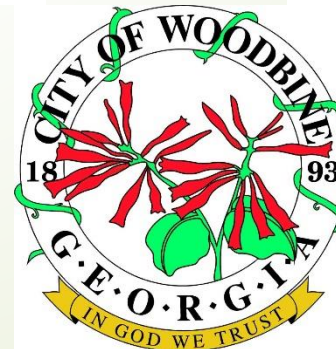




S P L S T



CAMDEN COUNTY SPLOST VIII





What is a Special Election?

- ▶ Special elections are elections held for various purposes, other than on the usual date, for a specific purpose such as a Special Purpose Local Option Sales Tax (SPLOST). Other special elections might be held in order to fill vacancies that occur either by death or by a resignation given prior to the completion of a term.
- ▶ The deadline to register to vote in the upcoming March 19, 2019, election was **February 19, 2019**.



When can I Vote in this Special Election?

- ▶ Advanced (Absentee or In-Person) Voting begins **February 25, 2019**, for the March Special Election.
- ▶ Advanced (Absentee or In-Person) Voting will take place in Woodbine **February 25 – March 15, 2019, Monday - Friday from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.** at the Government Services Complex located at 200 E. 4th Street, 1st Floor.
- ▶ Saturday voting will take place on **March 9, 2019**, from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
 - ▶ **Kingsland**—Georgia DDS Office, 333 S. Ashley Street
 - ▶ **St. Marys**—Former Dept. of Labor Building (downtown), 406 Osborne Street
 - ▶ **Woodbine**—Government Services Complex (1st Floor), 200 E. 4th Street
- ▶ **Tuesday, March 19, 2019**, is the last day to vote.



What happened in the 2013 SPLOST VII Election?

- ▶ 4,732 citizens turned out to vote for the 2013 election, although other items were on the ballot besides SPLOST VII.
- ▶ Close to 800 voters participated in Advanced Voting.
- ▶ In 2013, Camden voters renewed SPLOST for another six year period.
 - ▶ A total of 4,599 voters decided on SPLOST VII in this election.
 - ▶ 61.54% Approval



What is a SPLOST?

- ▶ SPLOST is an optional **one percent county sales tax** used to fund capital outlay projects proposed by the county government and participating **qualified** municipal governments.
- ▶ Levied in a “Special District” which is comprised of the entire territory of the county.
- ▶ Tax is imposed when the Board of Commissioners call for a local referendum (vote).
- ▶ Tax can be imposed for five or six years depending on whether the county and municipalities enter into an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) or not.
- ▶ SPLOST was enacted in 1985 by the Georgia General Assembly at the request of the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG).



SALES TAX BREAKDOWN IN CAMDEN

- ▶ Georgia Sales Tax – 4%
- ▶ LOST (Local Option Sales Tax) – 1%
- ▶ SPLOST VII – 1%
- ▶ E-SPLOST (Education) – 1%

- ▶ Total – 7%



SPLOST In Georgia

- ▶ Out of all 159 counties in the State of Georgia, **98.11%** of those counties have a SPLOST.
- ▶ Only three counties are currently without a SPLOST:
 - ▶ Fulton (has MARTA tax and TSPLOST)
 - ▶ Muscogee (has TSPLOST)
 - ▶ Towns
- ▶ SPLOST is considered a Fair Tax where everyone who purchases a good or service pays the tax, rather than having the burden solely on property owners.



Benefits of Having a SPLOST

- ▶ Reduced Property Taxes
- ▶ Greater effectiveness and efficiency in services provided (New Technologies & Equipment)
- ▶ Recreation and leisure activities for families to enjoy
- ▶ Safer roads, bridges and transportation services
- ▶ Provides funding for Public Safety needs, such as, ambulances, fire trucks, police vehicles and other emergency equipment
- ▶ Tourist, visitors and travelers pay the tax when purchasing goods and services in Camden County. (Lowers the burden on taxes felt by the local populous).



Does Camden County currently have a SPLOST?

➤ YES!

- SPLOST VII is currently being imposed in Camden County until June 30th, 2019.
- SPLOST VII was a \$65 million dollar referendum.
- SPLOST has been approved all 7 times in Camden County.

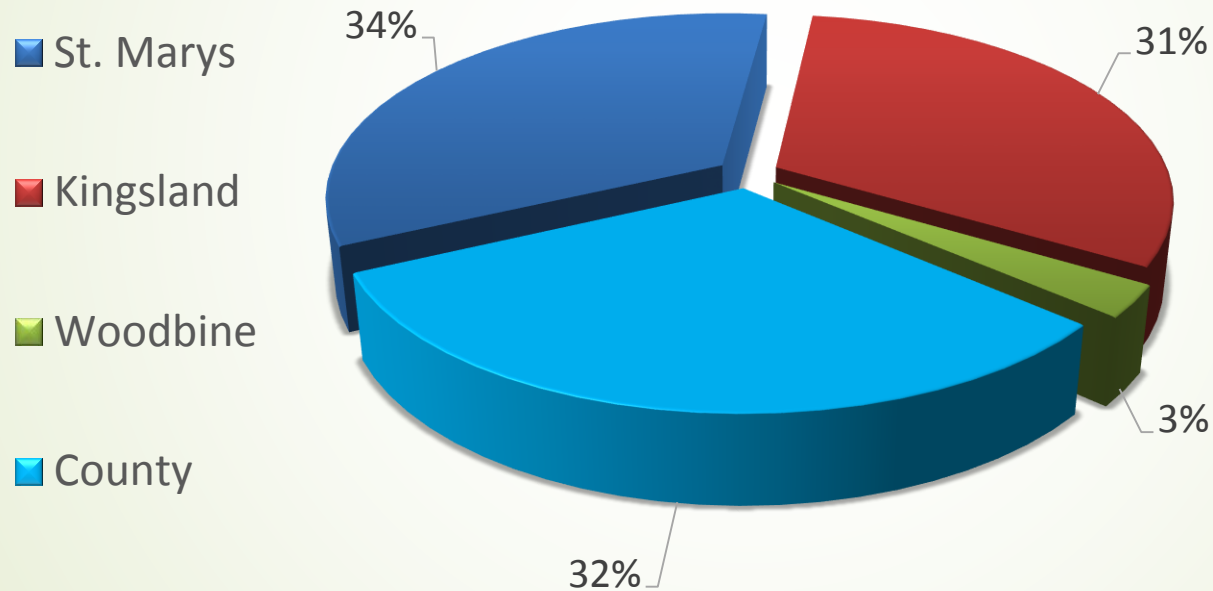


SPLOST VIII

- ▶ \$55 million dollar referendum
- ▶ Election will be held on Tuesday, March 19th, 2019.
- ▶ Collections would begin on July 1st, 2019 and will stop on June 30th, 2025.

County Population by Entity

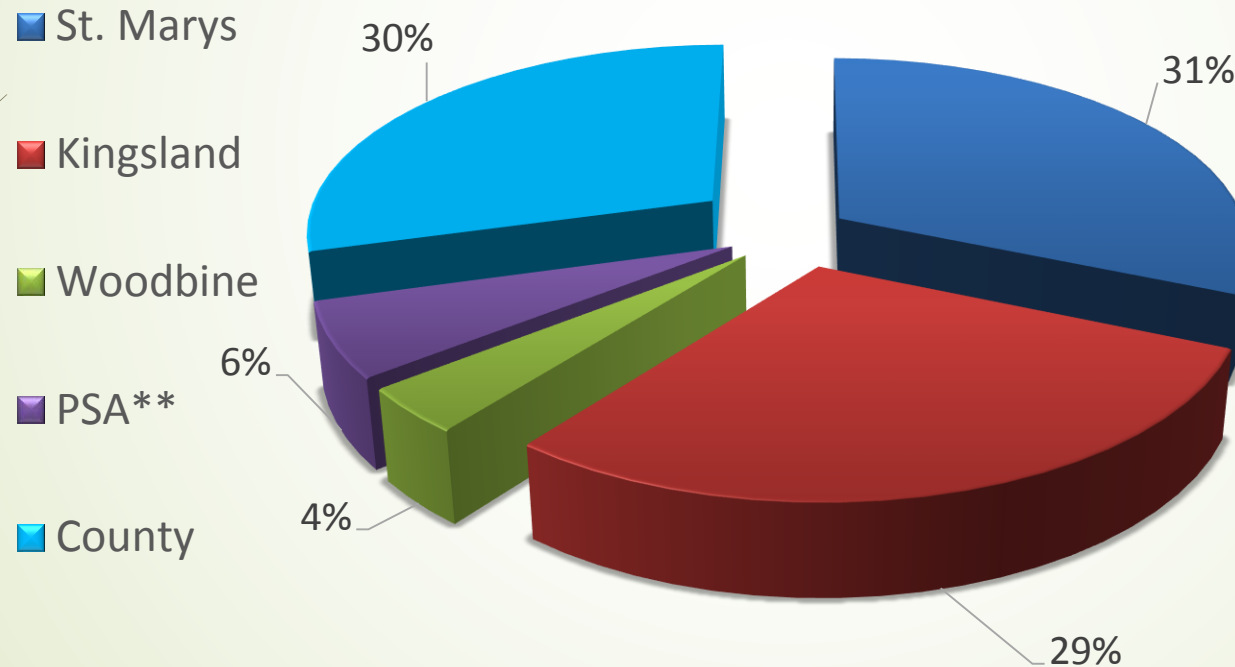
Population by Government Entity



<u>Entity</u>	<u>Population</u>
St. Marys	17,121
Kingsland	15,946
Woodbine	1,412
County	16,034
Total	50,513

SPLOST VIII Funding

SPLOST VIII Funding Breakdown by Entity

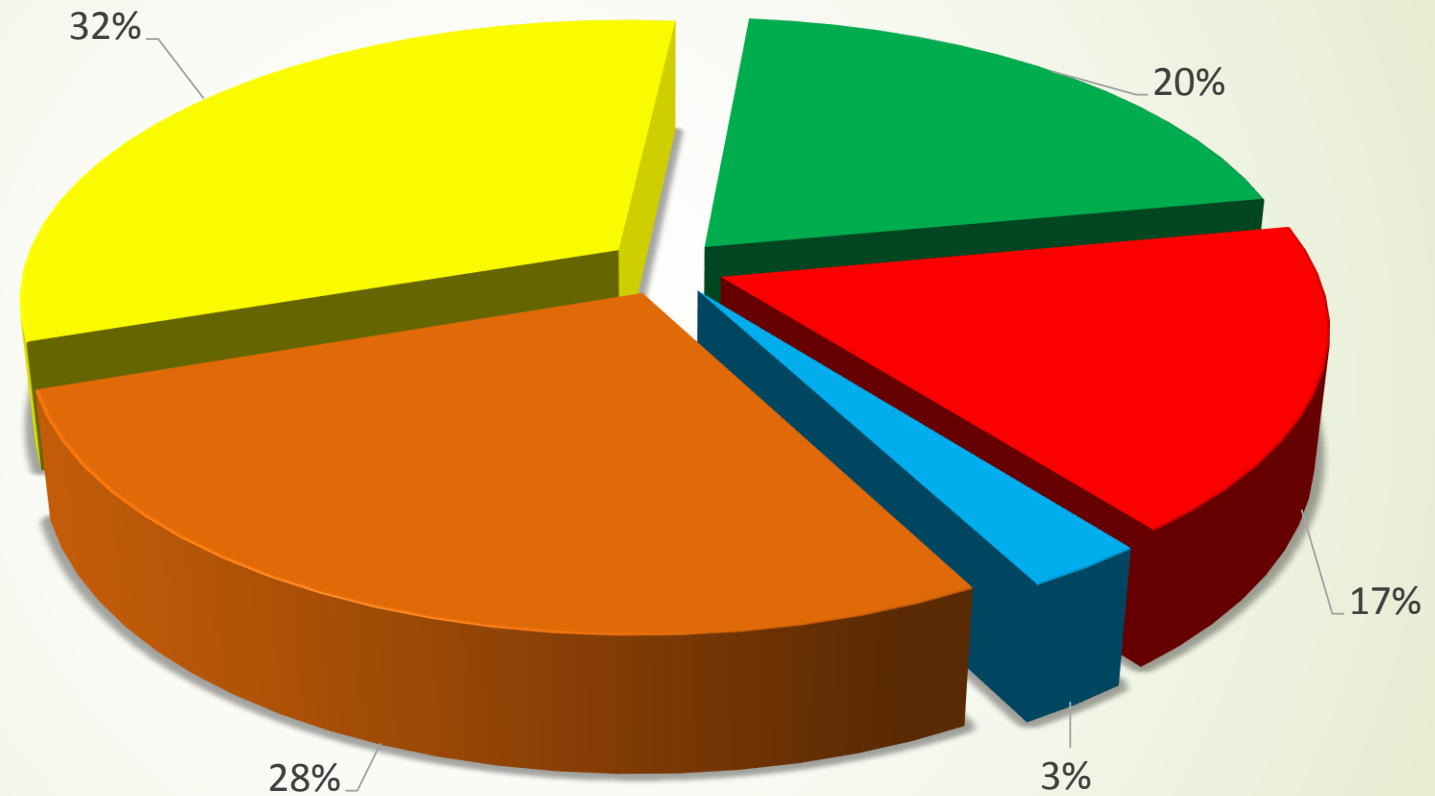


<u>Entity</u>	<u>Proposed Split</u>
St. Marys	\$ 13,375,739
Kingsland	\$ 12,458,095
Woodbine	\$ 1,619,567
PSA**	\$ 2,670,000
County	\$ 12,526,599
Level 2 Projects*	\$ 12,350,000
Total	\$ 55,000,000

*Level 2 Projects are those projects that are beneficial to all of the citizens of Camden.

**PSA stands for the Public Service Authority and serves all citizens in Camden County for recreational and leisure services.

SPLOST VIII Project Funding



Buildings and Facilities

Equipment, vehicles and Technology

Recreation Projects

Public Works (Transportation, Water & Sewer)

Retirement of Existing Debt (Water & Sewer Bond)

SPLOST VIII Level 2 Projects

<u>Priority #</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Proposed Budget Amount</u>
	<u>Countywide</u>	
1	Public Safety Radio Communications System	\$ 1,000,000.00
2	Ambulances - County Wide EMS	\$ 1,250,000.00
3	Superior Court Record Preservation	\$ 550,000.00
4	Property Acquisition	\$ 1,500,000.00
5	Library Renovation/Design	\$ 400,000.00
6	Highway 17 (Blue Bridge) Boat Ramp/Parking	\$ 250,000.00
7	Public Health Department Facility	\$ 1,200,000.00
8	Public Safety Complex - E911 / EMA	\$ 4,100,000.00
		<u>\$ 10,250,000.00</u>

*Level 2 Projects are those projects that are beneficial to all of the citizens of Camden.
**Once \$47 million has been collected and prior to any further proceeds distribution, the County shall receive \$2.1 million for the Public Safety Complex Level 2 Project.



WHAT COULD POTENTIALLY HAPPEN
IF THERE IS NO SPLOST OR THE
SPLOST REFERENDUM FAILS???





SPLOST Project Cost in Terms of Millage Rate

- ▶ In order to fully fund each entity's respective projects for SPLOST VIII, millage rates could potentially increase by:
- ▶ **County** (Includes Level 2 Projects)
 - ▶ **3.20 additional Mills**, each year, for 6 years. A **\$179.00 annual increase** on a \$150k home.
- ▶ **Kingsland**
 - ▶ **4.50 additional Mills**, each year, for 6 years. A **\$270.00 annual increase** on a \$150k home.
- ▶ **St. Marys**
 - ▶ **3.88 additional Mills**, each year, for 6 years. A **\$233.00 annual increase** on a \$150k home.
- ▶ **Woodbine**
 - ▶ **11.99 additional Mills**, each year, for 6 years. A **\$719.00 annual increase** on a \$150k home.

***This is without considering the additional impact of funding the PSA.

***Projects would be subject to the respective entity's Commission/Council Approval.



What can you do?

- ▶ Government agencies are not allowed to expend public money for campaign purposes in support of or in opposition of a SPLOST.
- ▶ You could assist in providing,
 - ▶ Letters to the editor
 - ▶ Partner with the Chamber of Commerce
 - ▶ Speak to citizens and share information about SPLOST



QUESTIONS?